

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing desired content, comprising:  
receiving a first content request at a first storage device;  
analyzing a map at said first storage device to determine if a copy associated with said first content request is present at said first storage device, said map including at least one map entry having an identifier suitable for describing a range of addressable data blocks, wherein the map entry corresponds to a data block stored in said first storage device;  
providing said copy associated with said first content request to a user; wherein said copy associated with said first content request is retrieved from a second storage device to said first device when said copy associated with said first content request is not initially present at said first storage device.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising updating said map when said copy associated with said first content request is retrieved from a second storage device to said first storage device.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising receiving a second content request, said second content request being the same as said first content request, wherein a copy associated with said second content request is provided to a user directly from said first storage device.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising transmitting a message from said second storage device to said first storage device after an original copy associated with said first content request is modified at said second storage device.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said message transmission invalidates said copy associated with said first content request at said first storage device.
6. The method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising updating said map at said first storage device when said copy associated with said first content request is invalidated.
7. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said message includes a modified copy associated with said first content request replacing said copy associated with said first content request at said first storage device.
8. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein a modified copy associated with said first content request is transmitted to said first storage device from said second storage device, said modified copy replacing said copy associated with said first content request; said modified copy associated with said first content request being transmitted based on a user-defined criteria.
9. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising passing a unique token between said first storage device and said second storage device, wherein said token assesses validity of the map stored in said first storage device.
10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said token is capable of instructing said first storage device to invalidate said map at said first storage device.

11. A system for providing requested content comprising:  
a first storage device; and  
a second storage device operably connected to said first storage device; wherein said first storage device and said second storage device are suitable for receiving and storing information, wherein a map is stored at said first storage device, said map including at least one entry including an identifier suitable for describing a range of addressable data blocks, wherein said map is suitable for being utilized to provide a copy associated with a first content request to a user when said copy is located at said first storage device and capable of retrieving said copy from said second storage device to said first storage device when said copy is not initially present at said first storage device.
12. The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said map is updated when said copy of requested content is retrieved from said second storage device to said first storage device.
13. The system as described in claim 11, wherein a modified copy associated with said first content request is transmitted to said first storage device from said second storage device, said modified copy replacing said copy associated with said first content request; said modified copy associated with said first content request being transmitted based on a user-defined criteria.
14. The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein a token is passed between said first storage device and said second storage device, said token is capable for assessing validity of said map stored at said first storage device.
15. The system as claimed in claim <sup>14</sup>18, wherein said token is capable of instructing said first storage device to invalidate the map stored at said first storage device.

16. A method for providing requested content, comprising:
- receiving a first content request at a first storage device;
  - analyzing a map at said first storage device including at least one map entry having an identifier suitable for describing a range of addressable data blocks, wherein the map entry corresponds to a data block stored in said first storage device;
  - providing a copy associated with said first content request from said first storage device when said copy is initially present said first storage device to a user;
  - retrieving said copy associated with said first content request from a second storage device when said copy is not initially present at said first storage device, said second storage device being operably connected to said first storage device;
  - providing said second copy associated with said first content request when said copy is not initially present at said first storage device; and
  - updating said map stored at said first storage device to reflect current storage at said first storage device.
17. The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising receiving a second content request, said second content request being the same as said first content request, wherein a copy associated with said second content request is provided to a user directly from said first storage device.
18. The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising transmitting a message from said second storage device to said first storage device after an original copy associated with said first content request is modified at said second storage device.

19. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said message transmission invalidates said copy associated with said first content request at said first storage device.
20. The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising updating said map at said first storage device when said copy associated with said first content request is invalidated.
21. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said message includes a modified copy associated with said first content request replacing said copy associated with said first content request at said first storage device.
22. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein a modified copy associated with said first content request is transmitted to said first storage device from said second storage device, said modified copy replacing said copy associated with said first content request; said modified copy associated with said first content request being transmitted based on a user-defined criteria.